

REMARKS

CLAIMS

Claims 1-44 were previously presented. Claims 1-2, 7, 19, 21-30, and 41-42 have been canceled without prejudice, and new Claims 45 and 46 have been added. Accordingly, after entry of the present amendment, Claims 3-6, 8-18, 20, 31-40, and 43-46 will be pending.

SPECIFICATION

ABSTRACT

Applicant was reminded that the abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph within a range of 50-150 words.

Applicant has amended the abstract accordingly.

DISCLOSURE

The disclosure was objected to for the following informalities: In line 7 of page 7, “55” should be changed to “50” and line 14, “40” should be changed to “30” to remain consistent with the drawings.

As suggested by the Examiner and indicated in the replacement paragraphs provided herewith, Applicant has amended the disclosure to include the changes noted above.

CLAIM REJECTIONS 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 29, 30, and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

In this regard, Applicant has canceled Claims 29 and 30 without prejudice, and amended Claim 44 to depend upon Claim 3 or Claim 6 to address the indefinite issue.

CLAIM REJECTIONS 35 U.S.C. §102/103

Claims 1, 2, 5, 18-21, 29, 31, 37, 38, and 40-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Seagle (6,019,817); Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 16-22, 29, 31, 32, 37, 38 and 40-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Fornai et al. (6,843,835); Claims 9-15, 23-28, 33-36, and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Fornai et al. in view of Applicant's admitted prior art; and Claim 30 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Fornai et al in view of Moore et al. (6,464,944). Without commenting on the substance of those rejections, Applicant respectfully reserves his rights to pursue those rejected claims in a separate application.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

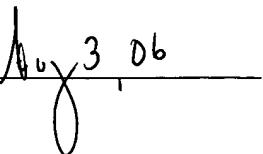
Claims 3, 4, and 6 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has rewritten independent Claims 3 and 6 as suggested by the Examiner. Claims 4-5, and 16-18 dependent directly or indirectly on Claim 3, and Claims 8-15 and 20 dependent directly or indirectly on 3 and/or 6. Independent method Claims 31, 43, and 44 have been amended to include the apparatus of rewritten Claim 3 or Claim 6, and new independent Claims 45 and 46 have been added to further define Applicant's invention.

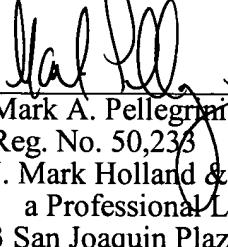
Accordingly, pending Claims 3 and 6, having been amended as suggested by the Examiner, are now in condition for allowance. Claims 4-5, 7-18, and 20, depending directly or indirectly therefrom, and Claims 31-40, and 43, amended to include the apparatus of Claim 3 or Claim 6, are now likewise in a condition for allowance. Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes it would help resolve any remaining issues regarding the foregoing, Applicant respectfully invites the Examiner to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at (949) 718-6750.

Date:


3/06

Respectfully submitted,



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